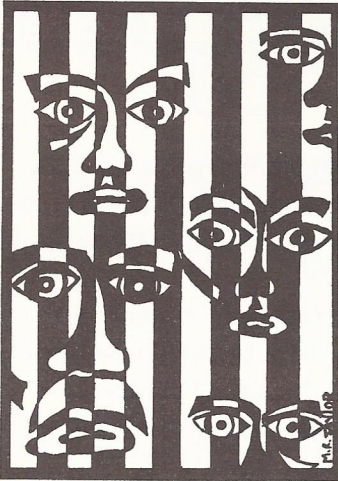




Freedom Now!

Campaign for Amnesty and Human Rights for Political Prisoners in the US
59 E. Van Buren, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60605,
312.663.4399 312.278.6706
November/December 1990

INT'L TRIBUNAL PUTS U.S. ON TRIAL

Freedom Now has convened a Special International Tribunal to receive evidence concerning human rights violations against political prisoners and prisoners of war in the U. S. on Dec. 7-10 at Hunter College in New York City. The event, co-sponsored by other groups, marks the two-year anniversary of Freedom Now.

A distinguished panel of ten international jurists and human rights advocates has been invited to participate as judges at the Tribunal. Seven judges have been confirmed:

Friday and Saturday,
December 7 and 8
Evidence will be presented to the judges. A program of cultural activities has been organized for the public during the lunch recesses and evenings. The conference proceedings and cultural activities will take place at the Playhouse, Hunter College, NW building at 68th and Lexington.

Sunday, December 9
The panel will meet in an executive session, closed to the public, to deliberate and prepare their statement on findings and remedies. A multi-cultural program of activities and workshops will be available to the audience, also at the Playhouse.

Monday, December 10
On International Human Rights Day the findings prepared by the panel of judges will be made public at a press conference. It will take place at the Solarium Room, Hunter College from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon.

- Luciana Castellini, Italy, member of the Italian Parliament;
- Jamal Sourani, Palestine, president of the Union of Palestinian Jurists;

- George Wald, United States, Nobel Prize laureate;
- Frank Badohu, Ghana, Organization of African States' representative to United Nations Namibia Commission;
- Fabiola Letelier, Chile, Attorney, human rights advocate;
- Norman Paech, Germany, Professor of Law; and
- Lord Anthony Gifford, Great Britain, House of Lords.

The evidence presented will include affidavits from political prisoners as well as direct testimony from former political prisoners, experts and selected representatives from the Black/New African, Native American, Mexican, Puerto Rican and North American anti-imperialist and disarmament movements. Experts will testify on prison conditions, control units, the psychological effects of isolation, political bias in sentencing, violations of trial procedures and the legal foundations for the prisoners' actions in furthering their struggles.

Already, fifteen international human rights organizations from Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America have confirmed their attendance at the Tribunal. Invitations will be sent out to the diplomatic corps accredited in Washington, members of the United Nations, members of Congress, and organizations and individuals concerned with human rights in the US.

The findings of the judges will be published and circulated to members of the U.S. Congress, United Nations Missions and Observers in New York, and international and national human rights organizations. It is expected that it will become a basic instrument for promoting a frank discussion on human rights within civic groups in the U.S. Additionally, the final declaration will be the basis for representations on behalf of the prisoners at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights at Geneva, the Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, and the International Conference on Human Rights to take place in Moscow in 1991. Finally, the findings of the Tribunal will be published in book form.

For information contact: TRIBUNAL ON POLITICAL/POW PRISONERS in the UNITED STATES
24 EAST 116TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10029 (212) 860-4101.

FREEDOM NOW SPONSORS MIDWEST TOUR

From Minneapolis to Milwaukee, from Champaign to Chicago, the month of November will see a flurry of activity on political prisoners as the Freedom Now Midwest Tour rolls into the heartland. Freedom Now is sponsoring nine days of political and cultural gatherings, beginning in Minneapolis on November 12/13 where ex-political prisoner Dhoruba Bin-Wahad will speak at local universities and on several radio programs.

Dhoruba will speak at a series of programs in Chicago over four days. Alderperson and ex-Black Panther Michael McGhee and members of the black community of Milwaukee have arranged a full day of events for Dhoruba on Thursday.

On Friday night, Nov. 16, ex-political prisoners Dora Garcia, Jaime Delgado and Jean Gump join Dhoruba for a major political/cultural activity at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago.

Freedom Now will hold an organizer's meeting on Saturday, Nov. 17th from 9-12 AM at De Paul University in Chicago to discuss the history and future of the FN Campaign with area activists. Dhoruba and other ex-political prisoners will be on hand to join the discussions.

The tour will end with a trip to Champaign on Monday, Nov. 19. Part of the funds from the tour will benefit the Tribunal.

LITERARY READING BENEFITS TRIBUNAL

...true contemplation is resistance: and poetry,
gazing at the clouds is resistance, I found out in jail...

Ernesto Cardenal

Poets and writers came together in a powerful show of solidarity with political prisoners in the US on October 24th at the New York Society for Ethical Culture in Manhattan. An enthusiastic crowd of over 350 people paid \$20 each in a benefit for the International Tribunal on Political/POW Prisoners.

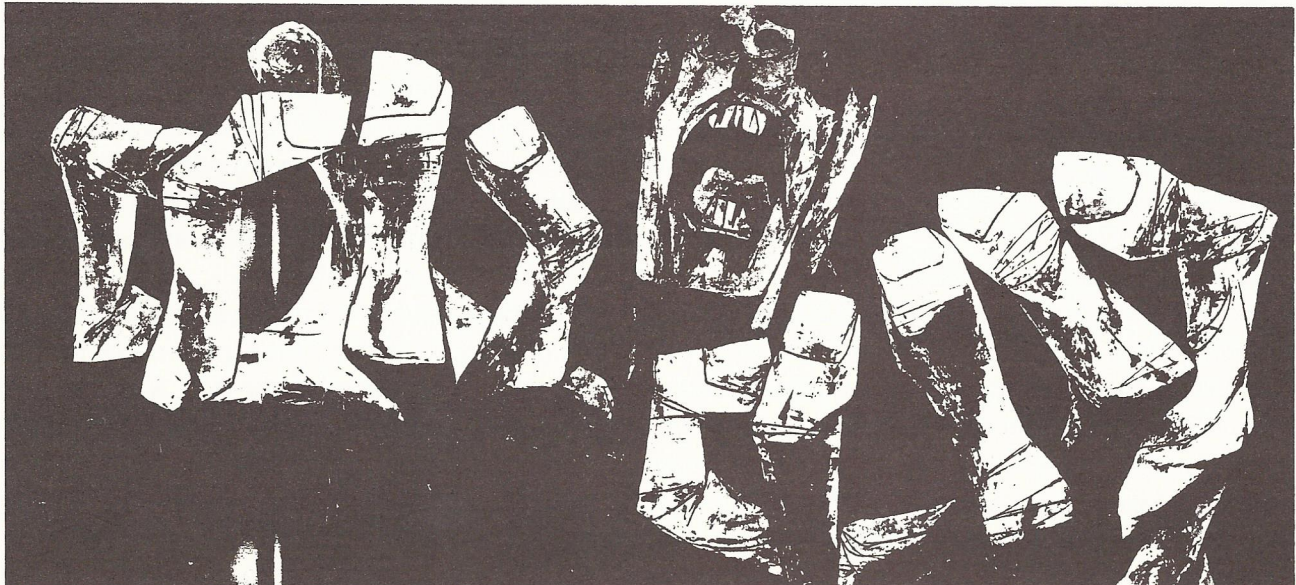
Participating artists included Amiri Baraka, long-time black activist, playwright and poet; Susan Sherman, feminist author; Jose Yglesias, Cuban writer; Giannina Braschi, Puerto Rican poet; Ninotchka Rosca, Philippine poet and ex-political prisoner; Piri Thomas, Puerto Rican

author; Terry Bisson, writer and ex-Grand Jury resister; and Daniel Berrigan, long-time Jesuit poet and activist. Ernesto Cardenal, Nicaraguan poet and former Sandinista Minister of Culture, was refused a visa by the US government the night before the show.

The night was capped off by the surprise appearance of Sarah Zeller-Berkman, age 14, poet and daughter of political prisoner Alan Berkman and Barbara Zeller, who shared several of her own poems with the crowd.

Luis Nieves Falcon, distinguished professor and coordinator of the International Tribunal, opened the program with a statement of solidarity and hope: "We will overcome because not even in taking our lives away can they conceal the moral fairness of the struggle."

Original art: Guayasamin



THE GRAPEVINE

SILVIA BARALDINI. (Marianna Prison, Florida) The U.S. government continues to block Silvia's request for repatriation to her native country, Italy, as required by the Strasbourg Convention. Members of the Italian government, including the Prime Minister, have contacted the US government confirming Italy's commitment to the Convention and asking for Silvia's repatriation. Silvia requests that letters demanding her repatriation be sent to: Richard Thornburgh, U.S. Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, 10th Street and Constitution Avenue, Washington D.C. 20530.

DR. ALAN BERKMAN. (Wash, D.C. General Hospital) Alan has been undergoing chemotherapy since early June for his Hodgkin's disease. He is in critical condition, suffering from a series of serious infections and neurological complications. His chances of survival are significantly decreased if he is forced to stay in prison. Alan would have been paroled by now if normal security standards were applied to his case. The Committee for Political Prisoners' Rights, P.O. Box 28191, Washington D.C. 20038-8191 (202) 328-7818, urges people to write letters asking that Alan be paroled to Irma Huseman, U.S. Parole Commission, North Central Regional Office, 10920 Ambassador Drive, Air World Center, Suite 220, Kansas City, MO 64152. (See back of Urgent Response insert).

LUCY BERRIOS-BERRIOS. (Lexington, KY) A Puerto Rican political prisoner, Lucy will be released from prison on Dec. 6, 1990 after serving approximately two and one half years at the FCI in Lexington, Kentucky for her involvement in the conspiracy to distribute toys to children during the 1985 Three King's Day celebration in the Puerto Rican community of Hartford, Connecticut.

LARRY GIDDINGS. (Leavenworth, KS) Freedom Now extends a warm welcome to Larry as the newest FN political prisoner. Larry spent over 7 years in prison on arms expropriation charges until his release in 1978. He was wounded during a shoot-out and arrested in Seattle for the attempted liberation of a comrade from prison on Oct. 14, 1979. Larry received multiple sentences of life and 75 years.

JAIME DELGADO. Jaime was released on Sept. 7 from the



Jaime Delgado celebrates his release with friends.

Terre Haute Federal Penitentiary after serving almost three years for his conviction in the "conspiracy to escape" case. Approximately 200 people gathered that day to greet Jaime upon his release in a celebration at the Juan Antonio Corretjer Puerto Rican Cultural Center in Chicago.

JEAN GUMP. Jean was released from Alderson prison on Oct. 15 after serving 49 months following her conviction for a symbolic act of nuclear disarmament. Jean participated in a Plowshares action on the Whiteman Air Force Base near Holden, Missouri. Jean will speak at a FN program on Nov. 16.

BASHIR HAMEED. (Shawangunk Prison, NJ) Since Oct. of 1988, Bashir has been "locked down" (isolation with extremely limited out-of-cell time and other severe restrictions) along with a group of prisoners after they demanded the dissolution of the Close Supervision Unit of the prison. Bashir suffers from hypertension and has received sporadic and inadequate medical care for this condition. FN urges readers to send letters through the Urgent Response Network on behalf of Bashir. (See insert for details)

WE INVITE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS TO SEND US BRIEF UPDATES. NEXT DEADLINE: DEC 20, 1991.

NEW RESOURCES

Ground was broken for the new maximum security federal prison planned for Florence Colorado in July, with the first units scheduled to open in 1992. THE FLORENCE PRISON WILL REPLACE MARION PRISON IN ILLINOIS AS THE MOST BRUTAL IN THE FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM with state-of-the-art security technology to ensure nearly complete isolation for prisoners. The Committee to End the Marion Lockdown urges readers to write for an information packet on this newest of US nightmares. PO Box 578172, Chicago, IL 60657-8172 (312) 235-0070.

Study of prison torture: "THE MYTH OF HUMANE IMPRISONMENT" is a fifty page academic article based on the responses of 650 prisoners from 41 states. The central findings of the study are: (1) that severe physical and psychological abuse are the norm in maximum security prisons; and (2) the most frequently disciplined groups are jailhouse lawyers, Black prisoners and prisoners with mental handicaps. Send \$5 (cash/MO/stamps) to: Prison Discipline Study, 1909 - 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- WE NEED DONATIONS to keep this newsletter alive. Suggested subscription—\$10 Sustainer—\$25 Checks to Freedom Now.
- JOIN THE URGENT RESPONSE NETWORK TO WRITE EMERGENCY LETTERS.

National Office
59 E. Van Buren, #1400
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 663-4399

East Coast
1560 Broadway, #807
New York, NY 10036

West Coast
3543 18th Street #17
San Francisco, CA 94110

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The RESISTANCE CONSPIRACY DEFENDANTS elected to reach a plea agreement because of the recurrence of Alan Berkman's cancer. Charges were dropped against Alan, Tim Blunk and Susan Rosenberg. In exchange, Marilyn Buck and Linda Evans will face a maximum of 15 years and Laura Whitehorn a maximum of 20 years. Sentencing for Marilyn will be held Nov. 16th at 4 PM at the Federal Courthouse at 3rd and Constitution NW in Wash, DC. Linda and Laura face sentencing at 9:45 AM on Dec. 6 at the same location. Supporters are encouraged to attend.

FILIBERTO OJEDA RIOS, defendant in the Aug. 30 Hartford Wells Fargo case, announced on Sept. 23 his reintegration into the clandestine struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico as a member of the Ejercito Popular Boricua (Macheteros). Filiberto freed himself from the electronic bracelet he was required to wear while out on bail.

SUSAN RODRIGUEZ, disarmament activist, faces charges of felony vandalism and burglary when she goes to trial on Nov. 20 in San Francisco. Susan entered the Physics International Corp., a company that conducts research on first strike nuclear capabilities, and smashed a computer network with a hammer causing over \$100,000 damage.

THREE IRISH ACTIVISTS in Boston were convicted on conspiracy and weapons charges by a jury on Aug. 20. Richard Johnson received 10 years, Martin Quigley 8 years, and Christina Reid 3 years and 5 months. The defendants charged extensive FBI misconduct at trial. Contact Constitutional Defense Fund, PO Box 655, Boston, MA 02112, (617) 479-7993 or (312) 489-1444.

FREEDOM NOW

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Urgent Response Requested

Support Political Prisoner Bashir Hameed



Bashir Hameed (formerly James York) has spent the past 25 months in Shawangunk Prison in solitary confinement, locked in a cell 6 feet by 8 feet for 23 hours per day. Handcuffs are forced on him when he leaves his cell, and his visits and shower time are restricted. He is a devout Black Muslim, yet is not allowed to attend religious services.

Bashir has a history of serious hypertension or high blood pressure, an illness that can be fatal. Since his placement in solitary confinement, his health has worsened. Yet, he has had constant problems obtaining medication for his condition. Doctors fear that Bashir's continued solitary confinement and lack of appropriate medical treatment will further aggravate his condition and possibly be fatal.

Recently, Bashir found a substance that resembled mice droppings in his milk cup. His complaint to the prison superintendent was ignored, and since making the complaint, the guards have harassed him even more than previously—he reports regular ransacking of his cell, being subjected to abusive and racist threats and remarks, and has had guards twist his handcuffs behind his back causing acute pain.

Why is Bashir Hameed the target of such relentless and inhumane abuse?

Bashir is in solitary confinement and harassed by prison personnel, not for disciplinary charges, but because prison officials feel he is a "threat" in general prison population.

Bashir is a Muslim leader, former Black Panther, and was elected chairman of the Inmate Liaison Committee at Shawangunk Prison. He was a prime target of the FBI's Counter-Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO), when he was arrested for the 1981 murder of a police officer. After an acquittal and a mistrial, he and his co-defendant, Abdul Majid, were sentenced to 33 1/3 years to life by Judge John Gallagher, a son and brother of police officers.

Bashir was scheduled to be returned to general prison population, but Warden Louis Mann reneged, arbitrarily deciding to keep him in solitary confinement for an undetermined time. Warden Mann subsequently told Bashir's attorney that the only reason he is continuing his solitary confinement is he "feels Bashir has a tremendous amount of respect in general population."

Support Bashir Hameed! Join the Freedom Now Urgent Response!

Freedom Now urges you to call or write immediately:

Governor Mario Cuomo
Executive Chambers
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224 telephone (212)587-2100

Dear Gov. Cuomo,

I demand that:

1. Bashir Hameed be immediately transferred from isolation to general prison population.
2. Bashir Hameed be provided with ongoing, adequate medical treatment for hypertension.
3. Prison guards and personnel stop all harassment and threats aimed at Bashir Hameed.

Sincerely,

Please send Freedom Now copies of letters sent to Gov. Cuomo.

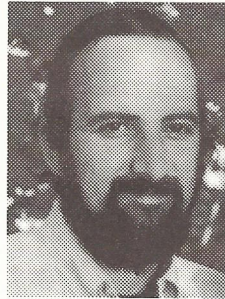
Or contact Freedom Now and request that we send a faxgram message in your name at the cost of \$5.00.

Freedom Now will send a fax message to Gov. Cuomo for those who authorized it.

The Urgent Response Network is a project of Freedom Now: Campaign for Amnesty and Human Rights for Political Prisoners in the U.S. To join the network and commit to sending protest letters or telegrams, write or call 59 E. Van Buren #1400, Chicago, IL 60605, (312)663-4399.

Urgent Response Update

Political Prisoner Dr. Alan Berkman in Critical Condition



Over 1,000 responses to the Urgent Response Network and others' appeals supporting Dr. Alan Berkman forced the Bureau of Prisons to move Dr. Berkman to D.C. General Hospital. Thanks to everyone who responded. Our letters, calls and faxgrams do make a difference.

Currently, Alan is in critical condition at D.C. General Hospital. After five months of chemotherapy, the treatment was temporarily stopped due to adverse reactions to it, including series of serious infections and neurological complications (not known if permanent or not).

Alan has been eligible for parole since May 1987! Despite a flawless prison record, his history of cancer, and his years of service to oppressed communities, he was denied parole until July, 1992, based solely on his political beliefs and associations. This week, his case will be brought before the Parole Commission.

To support Alan, we request that you:

1. Write a letter to the Parole Commission asking for Alan's release on parole, and organize others to do the same. Send to:

Irma Huseman
U.S. Parole Commission
North Central Regional Office
10920 Ambassador Drive
Air World Center, Suite 220
Kansas City, MO 64152

2. Plan a vigil or demonstration in your area to demonstrate your concern for Alan and outrage at the Bureau of Prisons. Demonstrations and candlelight vigils are presently being planned for November in New York, Chicago and San Francisco. Organize an event in your area! Call (202)234-4830 for further information about organizing support.

Note: Freedom Now will send fax message to the Parole Commission for those who have authorized it.